

## **MACKENZIE - Fort Smith**

### **College construction ahead of schedule to open in 1964**

The \$ 500,000 first construction phase of Fort Smith College is ahead of schedule.

The three-storey structure, first college to be built in the Northwest Territories, is to open its doors to 50 students in September, 1964.

Main purpose of the college, says Most Reverend Paul PICHÉ, Vicar Apostolic of Mackenzie, is to provide native youth of the Territories with special individual help in continuing education.

In a non-institutional atmosphere, Indians and Eskimos could voluntarily receive the training they need to become the future leaders of the North.

White persons also would be welcomed by the college, but they would have to develop « mutual charity needed to understand the mentality of Indians ».

Architect for the college is Rene Blanchet of Québec. He also designed the Roman Catholic St. Joseph's Cathedral here.

Building finances come largely from the treasury of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith,, administered from Rome, to which all Canadian Roman Catholic parishes contribute once each year.

The project superintendent for construction of Fort Smith College, Paul Morin, looks over foundation forms of the first 50 by 110-foot section.

The building now going up will be used as an administration building after later additions to it provide dormitories, a chapel, library, gymnasium, classrooms, study hall and other facilities.

The administration section is 50 by 110 feet in size.

Second phase of building later will add a section measuring 120 by 60 feet. It will have a gymnasium on the ground floor and will be two storeys high.

Bishop PICHÉ says the college will seek affiliation with a University, providing a start for its students in arts and science faculties.

The Bishop has worked in education of Indians in Saskatchewan and says « you have to kill institutionalism in native education to succeed. Let them act for themselves and make their own decisions. The teachers are there for guidance ».

The students, however, had to have the desire to attend the school.

Grandin home, which is operated here by the Oblate Fathers, on the same principles which will guide the college, has proven successful.